



## South Dakota Federal Lands Access Program

The passage of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) produced changes in many of the transportation funding programs. Depending on the location of your county relative to Federal lands, there are a few of these programs that may be of interest to you and your county.

Some of you, primarily on the western side of the state, are probably familiar with the Forest Highway Program which, in the past, was used to improve roads to or through Forest Service lands. These program dollars were used to fund many roadway improvements to South Dakota Forest Highways, including FH17 from Hill City to Lead, FH26 from Nemo to Spearfish, and FH27 through the Black Hills National Forest. With the passage of MAP-21, this program has been phased out.

However, MAP-21 has generated the new Federal Lands Access Program. This program not only expands the types of projects that might be eligible, but also provides some additional funding opportunities for South Dakota counties and local governments.

A few key points on the Federal Land Access Program:

- Expands eligible projects to include all public roads which access, are adjacent to, or are within Federal lands; although emphasizes those used to access high use recreation sites or economic generators;
- Allows use on infrastructure owned or maintained by State DOTs, counties or local governments;
- Allows funds to be used for planning, research, engineering, preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction or reconstruction;
- Permits use on parking areas, scenic easements, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, safety improvements relative to wildlife, roadside rest areas and other public road facilities;
- Requires a 17.18% non-federal match; and
- Selects projects based on the recommendation of the Programming Decisions Committee, which is comprised of one representative each from Federal Highway, South Dakota Department of Transportation, and a state political subdivision, currently Bob Wilcox, Executive Director, SD Association of County Commissioners.

For more information on the Federal Lands Access Program go to <https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/sd/> or contact Jerry Ortbahn at [Jerry.Ortbahn@state.sd.us](mailto:Jerry.Ortbahn@state.sd.us) or 605.773.3281

